



Iowa Community Empowerment

Overview

Community Empowerment was established by legislation during the 1998 session in an effort to create a partnership between communities and state government with an emphasis to improve the well-being of families with young children. Community Empowerment Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area.

Purpose / Mission

The purpose of Community Empowerment is to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results for improving the quality of life in the communities in this state. It is believed that local individuals in local communities working together will identify and implement the best means for attaining the desired results. The role of the Iowa empowerment board and the State is to support and facilitate growth of individual and community responsibility in place of the directive role that the public has come to expect of government.

By the end of the year 2005, every community in Iowa will have developed the capacity and commitment for achieving these results:

- Healthy Children;
- Children Ready to Succeed in School;
- Safe and Supportive Communities;
- Secure and Nurturing Families; and
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments.

Community Empowerment is a leading example of “reinventing government” by returning decision making about family services to local communities, asking all parts of the community to work together in a partnership to improve the lives of children and families, and allowing great flexibility in how and what types of services are implemented.